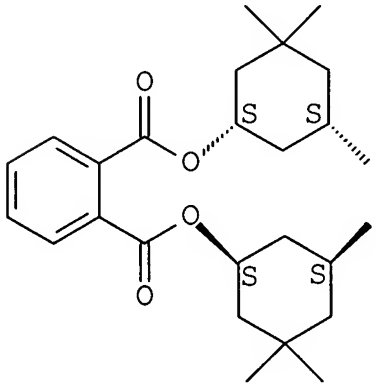
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

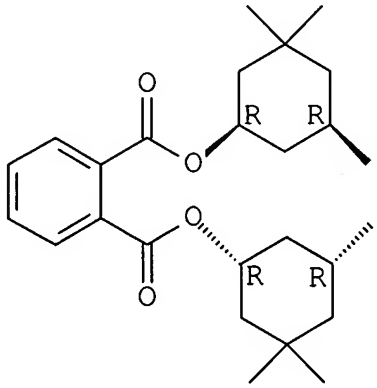
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

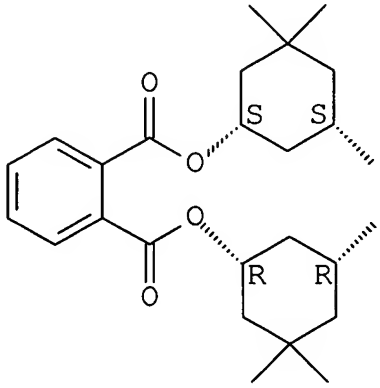
1. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl) phthalate comprising stereoisomers represented by the following Formulae (1), (2) and (3) and satisfying the following conditions:



(1)



(2)



(3)

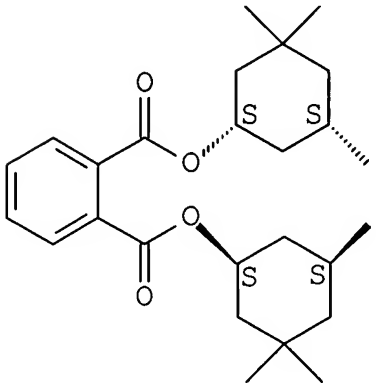
a+b+c=100, and 50<a+b or 50<c

wherein a, b and c are mole percentages of the stereoisomers represented by the Formulae (1), (2) and (3), respectively, with the proviso that a solid crystal having a single melting point peak at 93°C is excluded.

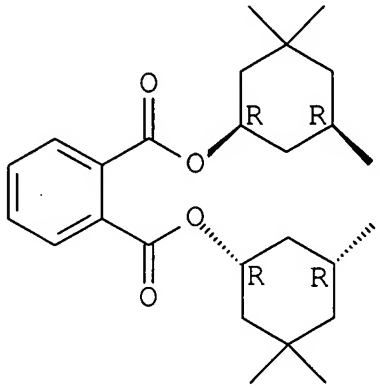
2. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl) phthalate, comprising the steps of:

allowing cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexanol to react with phthalic acid or a reactive derivative thereof; and

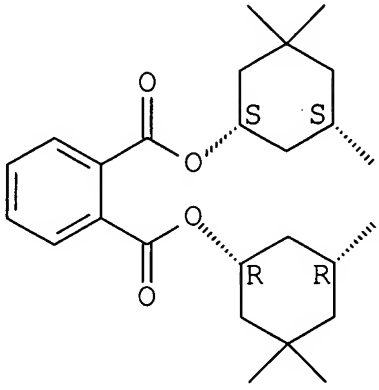
purifying the resulting mixture of stereoisomers of bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl) phthalate to thereby yield bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl) phthalate comprising stereoisomers represented by the following Formulae (1), (2) and (3) satisfying the following conditions:



(1)



(2)



(3)

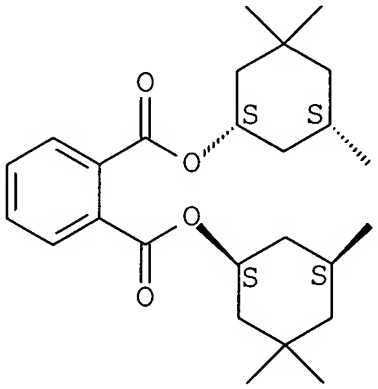
$a+b+c=100$ and $50<a+b$ or $50<c$

wherein a, b and c are mole percentages of the stereoisomers represented by the Formulae (1), (2) and (3), respectively, with the proviso that a solid crystal having a single melting point peak at 93°C is not obtained.

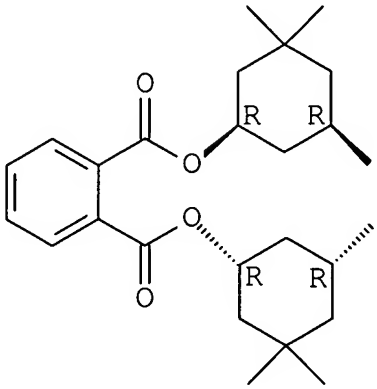
3. (Original) The process for the preparation of bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl) phthalate according to claim 2, wherein the mixture

of stereoisomers of bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl) phthalate is purified by crystallization.

4. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising purified dl-bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl) phthalate comprising a compound represented by the following Formula (1) and a compound represented by the following Formula (2):



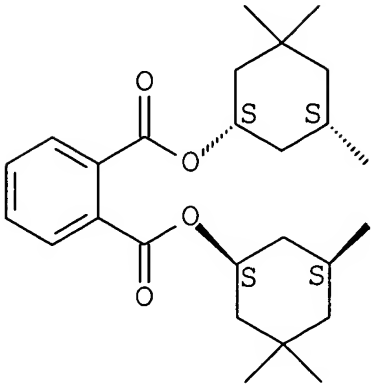
(1)



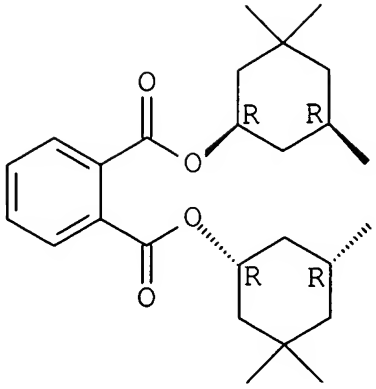
(2)

with the proviso that the purified dl-bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl) phthalate is not a solid crystal having a single melting point peak of 93°C.

5. (Currently Amended) An optically active and purified bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl) phthalate represented by the following Formula (1) or (2):



(1)



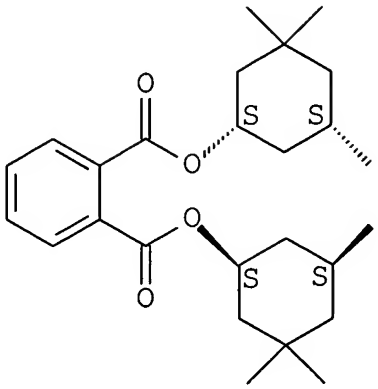
(2)

with the proviso that the optically active and purified dl-bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl) phthalate is not a solid crystal having a single melting point peak of 93°C.

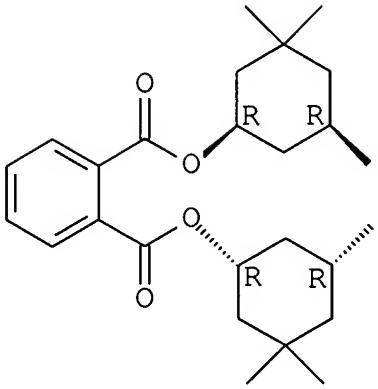
6. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of an optically active bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl) phthalate, comprising the steps of:

allowing cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexanol to react with phthalic acid or a reactive derivative thereof; and

optically resolving the resulting mixture of stereoisomers of bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl) phthalate to thereby yield an optically active bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl) phthalate represented by the following Formula (1) or (2):



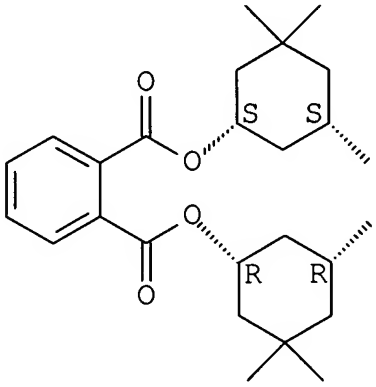
(1)



(2)

with the proviso that a solid crystal having a single melting point peak at 93°C is not obtained.

7. (Currently Amended) Purified meso-bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl) phthalate represented by the following Formula (3):



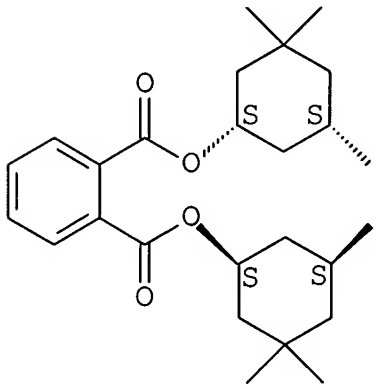
(3)

with the proviso that said purified meso-bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl) phthalate is not a solid crystal having a single melting point peak at 93°C.

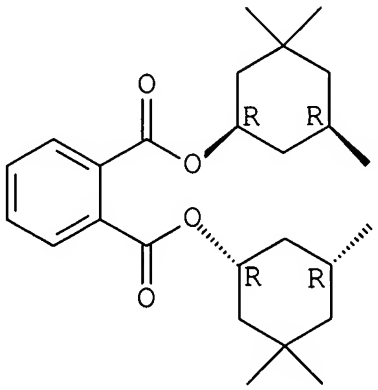
8. (Previously presented) A thermoplastic resin composition, comprising:

a thermoplastic resin; and

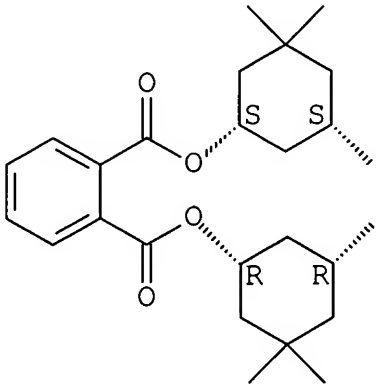
a solid plasticizer, the solid plasticizer comprising stereoisomers represented by the following Formulae (1), (2) and (3) and satisfying the following conditions:



(1)



(2)



(3)

a+b+c=100, and 50<a+b or 50<c

wherein a, b and c are mole percentages of the stereoisomers represented by Formulae (1), (2) and (3), respectively.

9. (Original) The thermoplastic resin composition according to claim 8, further comprising a tackifier.

10. (Original) The thermoplastic resin composition according to claim 8 or 9, which is an aqueous composition including the thermoplastic resin dispersed in water.

11. (Previously Presented) A heat-sensitive tacky adhesive comprising the thermoplastic resin composition as claimed in claim 8 or 9.

12. (Original) A heat-sensitive tacky adhesive sheet comprising a base sheet and a tacky adhesive layer formed at least on one side of the base sheet, the tacky adhesive layer comprising the heat-sensitive tacky adhesive as claimed in claim 11.

13. (Original) A process for the production of a heat-sensitive tacky adhesive sheet, comprising the step of applying the heat-sensitive tacky adhesive as claimed in claim 11 at least on one side of a base sheet to thereby form a tacky adhesive layer.

14. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the proportion of a+b exceeds 51 mol %.

15. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the proportion of a+b is equal to or more than 54 mol%.

16. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the proportion of a+b is more than 56 mol %.

17. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the proportion of a+b is more than 60 mol %.

18. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the proportion of c is more than 50%.

19. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the proportion of c is more than 51%.

20. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the proportion of c is more than 56%.

21. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the proportion of c is more than 60%.

22. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the proportion of c is more than 80%.

23. (Previously presented) The optically active and purified bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl) phthalate of claim 5, which has Formula (1).

24. (Previously presented) The optically active and purified bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl) phthalate of claim 5, which has Formula (2).

25. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 8, wherein $50<a+b$.

26. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 8, wherein $50<c$.